

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:JTDREYFUSS;HBLANE;JFKEANE;ARA:WHLUERS

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

S:J. COVEY

S/S-O P. JOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MX

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - MESSAGE ON RABASA'S

RESIGNATION AND GARCIA ROBLES APPOINTMENT

(S/S NO. 7525397 )

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA RESIGNED ON DEC. 29. NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN, BUT SPECULATION IS THAT HIS DISTRESS WITH MEXICO'S HANDLING OF THE QUOTE ANTI-ZIONIST UNQUOTE ISSUE IN THE UN WAS THE PRECIPITATING FACTOR. HE IS BEING REPLACED BY MEXICO'S UN AMBASSADOR, ALFONSO GARCIA ROBLES, WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN SWORN IN.

2. FOLLOWING ARE BIOGRAPHIC NOTES ON GARCIA ROBLES:

A. GARCIA ROBLES, 64, HAS BEEN MEXICO'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS SINCE 1970. HIS ASSUMPTION OF THE POST OF FOREIGN SECRETARY DOES NOT LOOK LIKE TERRIBLY GOOD NEWS FOR THE U.S. A CAREER DIPLOMAT, WHO  
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HAS CONSISTENTLY TRIED TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF

THE SMALL COUNTRIES AGAINST THE GREAT POWERS, HE IS WIDELY REGARDED AS ABLE AND INTELLIGENT. HE HAS ALSO BEEN CALLED STUBBORN, MACHIAVELLIAN, ANTI-AMERICAN AND THOROUGHLY EXASPERATING.

B. GARCIA ROBLES HAS SPENT MUCH OF HIS CAREER WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND WAS ASSOCIATED FOR 11 YEARS WITH THE UN SECRETARIAT. AS MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN HE REACTED STRONGLY WHEN HE BELIEVED THE UNITED STATES WAS ACTING IN A HIGH-HANDED MANNER OR WAS IGNORING THE SMALLER NATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW HOW DEEP HIS ANTI-U.S. BIAS GOES, HE CERTAINLY DOES NOT MIND OPPOSING THE U.S. AND IN THE LAST YEAR HAS RARELY SUPPORTED US ON KEY ISSUES AT THE UN. HE SEEMS IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED TO ECHEVERRIA'S THIRD WORLD INITIATIVES AND SHOULD BE COUNTED ON TO SUPPORT THEM SKILLFULLY.

C. GARCIA ROBLES IS CONSIDERED MEXICO'S FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON DISARMAMENT MATTERS AND A MOVING FORCE BEHIND THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO (AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A LATIN AMERICAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE). HE IS ALSO A SPECIALIST ON INTER-AMERICAN TREATIES AND OBLIGATIONS.

D. OUTWARDLY GRACIOUS AND URBANE, HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING SERIOUS AND INFLEXIBLE. HE HOLDS A LAW DEGREE FROM THE SORBONNE, SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH, IS MARRIED TO PERUVIAN BORN JUANA SZYSZLO AND HAS TWO TEEN-AGED SONS.

3. IN VIEW OF YOUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH RABASA DURING HIS TENURE, YOU MAY WISH TO SEND HIM A MESSAGE ON THIS OCCASION, AS WELL AS A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY.

4. RECOMMENDATION:

THAT YOU AUTHORIZE THE TRANSMISSION OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO OUR EMBASSY IN MEXICO FOR DELIVERY TO RABASA:  
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QUOTE: DEAR EMILIO: I AM SURPRISED AND SADDENED TO LEARN OF YOUR RESIGNATION AS FOREIGN SECRETARY. I PROFITED GREATLY FROM OUR MANY MEETINGS AND I WILL MISS YOUR DIPLOMATIC TENACITY AND WISE COUNSEL AS A COLLEAGUE. I WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIDER YOU A CLOSE FRIEND AND AM CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL AGAIN SERVE YOUR COUNTRY WITH DEDICATION AND DISTINCTION. WITH WARM REGARDS, HENRY.

UNQUOTE.

APPROVE            DISAPPROVE

AND THAT YOU AUTHORIZE THE TRANSMISSION OF THE FOLLOWING  
MESSAGE TO EMBASSY, MEXICO FOR DELIVERY TO GARCIA ROBLES:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY: CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR  
APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SECRETARY OF MEXICO. I LOOK  
FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN YOUR NEW CAPACITY AND WORKING  
WITH YOU TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS  
THAT EXIST BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES.  
WITH WARM REGARDS, HENRY KISSINGER. UNQUOTE.

APPROVE            DISAPPROVE

CLEARANCES: ARA/MEX:JDREYFUSS ARA/WHLUERS S:J.COVEY

ROBINSON

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